What is claimed is:

1. A playlist generation system comprising:

    at least one analysis module for receiving and analyzing an unknown

    work and generating a corresponding representation thereof;

5   at least one identification (ID) server for receiving said representation

    from said at least one analysis module and determining the identity

    of said unknown work.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein said at least one analysis module further

    includes an input port configured to receive said unknown work from a

10 networked source.

3. The system of claim 1, wherein said at least one analysis module further

    includes an input port configured to receive said unknown work from a

    broadcast source.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein said at least one analysis module further

15 includes an input port configured to receive said unknown work in the

    form of a pre-broadcast digital form.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein said at least one analysis module and said

    at least one ID server may be coupled over a network.

6.   The system of claim 5, wherein said network comprises the Internet.

7.   The system of claim 1, wherein said corresponding representation comprises feature vectors.

8.   The system of claim 1, wherein said corresponding representation comprises a spectral representation of said unknown work.

9.   The system of claim 1, wherein said corresponding representation comprises the text output of a speech recognition system.

10.   The system of claim 1, wherein said corresponding representation comprises the musical score output of a music transcription system.

11.   The system of claim 1, wherein said corresponding representation comprises a bit calculated key.

12.   The system of claim 1, wherein said ID server is configured to identify said unknown work using feature vectors.

13.   The system of claim 1, wherein said ID server is configured to identify said unknown work using a spectral representation of said unknown work.

14.   The system of claim 1, wherein said ID server is configured to identify said unknown work using the text output of a speech recognition system.

15. The system of claim 1, wherein said ID server is configured to identify said unknown work using the musical score output of a music transcription system.

16. The system of claim 1, wherein said ID server is configured to identify said unknown work using a bit calculated key.

17. The system of claim 1, wherein said at least one analysis modules are further configured to receive a plurality of streaming sources for analysis at a single location.

18. The system of claim 1, wherein said at least one analysis modules are further configured to receive a plurality of streaming sources for analysis at a plurality of different access points of the network.

19. The system of claim 1, wherein said at least one analysis module is configured to provide said representations to said at least one ID server at a predetermined time interval.

20. The system of claim 19, wherein said predetermined time interval comprises at least once a day.

21. The system of claim 19, wherein said predetermined time interval comprises approximately once an hour.

22. The system of claim 19, wherein said at least one analysis module is configured to provide said representations to said at least one ID server in approximately real time.

23. The system of claim 19, wherein said at least one analysis module is configured to provide said representations to said at least one ID server based on an out-of-band event.

24. The system of claim 1, wherein said ID server is further configured to generate a playlist of identified works.

25. The system of claim 1, wherein said ID server is further configured to generate a playlist of identified works received from said different access points of the networkin approximately real time.

26. The system of claim 1, wherein said at least one ID server is further configured to provide an identification of said unknown work back to the corresponding source analysis module.

27. The system of claim 18, wherein said ID server is further configured to generate a playlist of identified works in approximately real time.

28. The system of claim 27, wherein said at least one ID server is further configured to provide an identification of said unknown work back to the corresponding source analysis module in approximately real time.

29. The system of claim 27, wherein said at least one analysis module is further configured to purge a corresponding representation once an identification is received.

30. The system of claim 29, wherein said at least one analysis module is further configured to purge a corresponding representation in approximately real time once an identification is received.

31. A method for automatically generating a playlist comprising:

receiving, by at least one analysis module, an unknown work;

generating, by said at least one analysis module, a representation of said unknown work; and

sending, by said at least one analysis module, said representation to at least one identification server.

32. The method of claim 31, further comprising the act of identifying, by said identification server, said unknown work based upon said representation.

33. The method of claim 32, further comprising the act of storing said identification in a playlist database.

34. The method of claim 32, further comprising the act of sending, by said identification server, said identification to said at least one analysis module.

35. The method of claim 34, further comprising the act of purging, by said at least one analysis module, at least one file corresponding stored to said identification.

36. The method of claim 31, wherein said acts of receiving and sending are performed over a network.

37. The method of claim 36, wherein said acts of receiving and sending are performed over the Internet.

38. The method of claim 31, wherein said representation comprises feature vectors.

39. The method of claim 31, wherein said representation comprises a spectral representation of said unknown work.

40. The method of claim 31, wherein said representation comprises the text output of a speech recognition system.

41. The method of claim 31, wherein said representation comprises musical score output of a music transcription system.

42. The method of claim 31, wherein said representation comprises a bit calculated key of the digital signal.

43. The method of claim 32, wherein said act of identifying is performed using feature vectors.

5 44. The method of claim 32, wherein said act of identifying is performed using a spectral representation of said unknown work.

45. The method of claim 32, wherein said act of identifying is performed using the text output of a speech recognition system.

46. The method of claim 32, wherein said act of identifying is performed using

10 the musical score output of a music transcription system.

47. The method of claim 31, wherein said act of identifying is performed using a bit calculated key of the digital signal.

48. The method of claim 31, wherein said act of receiving, by at least one analysis module, an unknown work includes receiving a plurality of

15 streaming sources for analysis at a single location.

49. The method of claim 31, wherein said act of receiving, by at least one analysis module, an unknown work includes receiving a plurality of streaming sources for analysis at different access points of the network.

50.   The method of claim 31, wherein said act of sending, by said at least one

analysis module, said representation to at least one identification server is

performed in approximately real time.

51.   A method for automatically generating a playlist comprising:

5   receiving a representation of an unknown work;

identifying said unknown work using said representation; and

generating a playlist.

52.   A playlist generation system comprising:

means for receiving an unknown work;

10   means for generating a representation of said unknown work; and

means for sending said representation to at least one identification

server.

53.   The system of claim 52, further including means for identifying said

unknown work based upon said representation.

15   54.   The system of claim 53, further including means for storing said

identification in a playlist database.

55. The system of claim 54, further including means for sending said identification to said at least one analysis module.

56. The system of claim 52, further including means for generate a playlist of identified works received from different access points of the network in approximately real time.

57. The system of claim 52, further including means for generating a playlist of identified works in approximately real time.

58. The system of claim 52, further including means for providing an identification of said unknown work back to the corresponding source analysis module in approximately real time.

59. A playlist generation system comprising:

    means for receiving an unknown work;

    means for generating a representation of said unknown work;

    means for sending said representation to at least one identification server; and

    means for sending an identification of said representation to at least one other computer system.